

HERITAGE AREA BULLETIN BOARD MAY 2003 *****

The International Heritage Development Conference in Pittsburgh will soon be here....June 7-11....Registration has been strong and the conference will be a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues and explore a wonderful city. Hope to see many of you there. And for those who like to plan ahead, the next International Heritage Development Conference has been scheduled for late spring 2005 in Nashville, Tennessee.

LEGISLATION *****

Congressional interest in new heritage area designations and study bills is still high. Within the last month the following bills have been introduced:

[H.R.2278](#) : To establish the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Corridor in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Young, Don [AK] (introduced 5/22/2003) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: House Resources

[S.1105](#) : A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Bond, Christopher S. [MO] (introduced 5/22/2003)

[S.1118](#) : A bill to establish the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership in the States of Vermont and New York, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Jeffords, James M. [VT] (introduced 5/22/2003) **Cosponsors:** 3

Committees: Senate Energy and Natural Resources

[S.1137](#) : A bill to establish a Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen Lott, Trent [MS] (introduced 5/22/2003) **Cosponsors:** (none)

Committees: Senate Energy and Natural Resources

A summary of all of the heritage area bills that have been introduced in the 108th Congress is attached.



Legislation 108th Congress.c

LEGISLATIVE MEETING *****

On May 13-14, The Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a meeting on the National Heritage Areas Program. Committee staff from both sides of aisle and from the related House Committee were invited. Representatives from a range of interest groups and federal, state and local agencies attended, including NPS Deputy Director Randy Jones. The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service were particularly interested in their role in the heritage areas program as it moves west. Staff from the General Accounting Office (GAO) who attended agreed that the meeting provided a good starting point

for their impending fast-track review of the national heritage areas program. On the second day, Senator Thomas joined the meeting reiterated his interest in seeing the program move forward by agreeing upon criteria and goals for future success.

The meeting summarized the history and practice of heritage areas. It also helped participants understand the existing program and facilitated dialog about its future. The challenge will now be to get more organized while maintaining flexibility and creativity. Minutes of the meeting will be available in early June, and will be used to provide guidance to the committee and the participants as they determine the next steps in this developing movement.

Note: The Senate subcommittee has asked GAO to look at the process by which heritage areas are reviewed and designated and make recommendations for improvement.

HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE *****

The Alliance for National Heritage Areas has a new partner in administering the Heritage Development Institute. Last month the Alliance entered into an agreement with the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. to provide a home for the program. Institute courses will be held at various locations across the country. The next course is coming up soon and is scheduled prior to the Pittsburgh Conference, on Saturday May 7th. In the fall, a one-day heritage development course on "Heritage Area Basics" will be offered as part of the Annual National Trust for Historic Preservation meeting in Denver, CO on October 1st.

NEW BROCHURE ON NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS!

A new National Park Service style brochure featuring all 23 national heritage areas with a full size map is hot off the press. If you would like a copy please email, suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov with your mailing information.

ON THE ROAD*****

With all the activity on the legislative front, your editor has slowed down her travel schedule. However, she was in Oil City Pennsylvania in the heart of the Oil Heritage Region last week. The visit included a wonderful tour of the highlights of the areas oil story and the opportunity to Keynote the region's well regarded Victorian Architecture Conference. In June she will be in Shepherdstown West Virginia June 19-20 for the Potomac Heritage Partnership's *Rural and Agritourism Conference* for information on the conference, go to www.potomacheritage.org.